

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02

INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /095 W

-----011124Z 002372 /13

O 011020Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1177

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SENV, IMCO, FI

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION

REF: STATE 066771

1. SUMMARY: INITIAL FINNISH REACTION TO ADMINISTRATION'S MARINE OIL POLLUTION INITIATIVE IS ENCOURAGEMENT THAT VIGOROUS STEPS BEING TAKEN AND GENERAL SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED HANDLING IN IMCO, COUPLED WITH INDICATION OF CONCERN THAT U.S. MIGHT PROCEED UNILATERALLY ALONG LINES NOT CONDUCIVE TO DEVELOPMENT OF CONSISTENT INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS. MFA OFFICIALS INFORMALLY REQUEST SUCH INFORMATION AS MAY BE AVAILABLE ON U.S. EFFORTS TO DEVELOP LEGISLATION ON OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY. END SUMMARY

2. WITH HELANIEMI, DIRECTOR MFA'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT, NOT AVAILABLE TO RECEIVE DCM, ECONCOUNS CALLED ON ROTKIRCH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEAD OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU DEALING WITH TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, TO CONVEY POINTS REFTEL.

3. ROTKIRCH RESPONDED THAT IT VERY ENCOURAGING THAT ADMINISTRATION TAKING VIGOROUS STEPS TO DEAL WITH MARINE OIL POLLUTION. HE SAID FINNISH GOVT WOULD IN GENERAL SUPPORT STEPS IN IMCO AS OUTLINED AND WOULD PARTICIPATE

ACTIVELY. HE NOTED THAT IMCO WOULD FACE A HEAVY WORK-LOAD, THOUGH SOME OF THE PROPOSALS APPEARED MAINLY TO INVOLVE EXPEDITING CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ALREADY ON AGENDA.

4. WHILE EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING OF NEED FOR SPEEDY ACTION AND FINNISH READINESS TO AGREE TO STRICT MEASURES, ROTKIRCH STRESSED FINNISH VIEW THAT EMPHASIS IN DEALING WITH MARINE OIL POLLUTION SHOULD BE ON INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS, SINCE, AS USG APPROACH NOTED, ONE COUNTRY ALONE CANNOT DEAL WITH IT. HE CITED SHIP CONSTRUCTION AS AREA WHERE NATIONAL RATHER THAN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH COULD LEAD TO CONFLICTING STANDARDS.

5. ROTKIRCH OBSERVED THAT CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES WILL HAVE TO BE WELL PREPARED, AND IT HARD TO SAY WHETHER MEETINGS OF MSC AND MEPC AS OUTLINED WOULD SUFFICE. IN PRINCIPLE THE CALL FOR PLENIPOTENTIARIES CONFERENCE IS WELCOME.

6. ROTKIRCH NOTED THAT THOUGH OIL POLLUTION LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION LEGISLATION COVERED IN PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IT WAS NOT AMONG POINTS MADE PER REFTEL. HE REQUESTED INFORMATION CONCERNING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS. ARTICLE 17 OF CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF BALTIC SEA AREA, WHOSE RATIFICATION BY THE SEVEN BALTIC STATES IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR, REPRESENTS INITIATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO DEAL WITH THIS SUBJECT. IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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READS QTE THE CONTRACTING PARTIES UNDERTAKE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, JOINTLY TO DEVELOP AND ACCEPT RULES CONCERNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM ACTS OR OMISSIONS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PRESENT CONVENTION, INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, LIMITS OF RESPONSIBILITY, CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF LIABILITY AND AVAILABLE REMEDIES. END QTE WITHIN ROTKIRCH'S BUREAU A SORT OF INTERIM SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN SET UP FOR THE CONVENTION THAT IS COLLECTING MATERIALS ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: APPARENT PRELIMINARY FINNISH DISPOSITION TO SUPPORT LINE OF ACTION IN IMCO SET OUT IN REFTEL PROBABLY WOULD BE ENHANCED IF INFORMATION REQUESTED PREVIOUS PARA ON U.S. LEGISLATION COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE NOW OR AS LEGISLATIVE APPROACHES ARE WORKED OUT. PLEASE INFORM US WHETHER INFORMATION CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO FINNS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER POLLUTION, PETROLEUM, POLICIES, CARGO SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Message ID: ba7f07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2929670
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION
TAGS: EWWT, SENV, FI, US, CA, IMCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba7f07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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22 May 2009
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